

**So What's New About You?**  
**Romans 5:1 - 11**

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. <sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! <sup>16</sup>Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup>The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, <sup>21</sup>so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**The first six words of Romans 5 declare great news...therefore since we have been justified. These words indicate that our justification is a present reality and has been accomplished for us (through our Lord Jesus Christ as verse 1 continues). This justification has taken place in the past (as the tense suggests) but we enjoy the results and blessings each day in our present lives. In today's Bible lesson, Paul identified some of the joys and blessings that come from our reconciliation with God. Our condition or state has changed following our reconciliation with the Lord. Paul addressed the realities of this new state.**

**Some of those new realities include...**

- 1. Access to the Father**
- 2. Grace from the Father**
- 3. God's work to produce maturity in us**
- 4. Hope, perseverance and a transformed character**
- 5. Saved from God's wrath unleashed upon sin and unrepentant sinners**
- 6. Friendship and connection with God**

**These realities change who we are and how we choose to relate to God. The desperate plight and situation that surrounded man in Romans 1 have been**

significantly altered and changed. Some people have even concluded that chapters 1-4 were a prelude to this new reality revealed and celebrated in Romans 5. Verse 11 is a suitable tribute...we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul said that we can even see our “sufferings” or trials in a new light. God uses trials and suffering redemptively and for the good of His people. Trials are often the fodder for spiritual maturity, character development and God’s training regiment for transforming His people more and more into the likeness of Christ. Often we resist or dislike any kind of trial. We see them only as things to get through. But God sees trials as tools He can use to shape, plane and sand His people. Verse 9 reminds us that as difficult as trials may be, we have been delivered from the wrath of God where suffering comes without the assurance of God’s presence and grace.

Verse 8...Paul paused in this verse to remind us once more of the gospel. Someone came for us. Someone died for us. Someone died for us as we were and are. Someone died for us though He did not deserve such a destiny. And verse 6 goes so far as to label mankind as “ungodly” and “powerless.” For apart from God and aside from God, man is nothing and has no hope of becoming anything else. And of course that “someone” is Christ. In fact, a careful inspection of verse 8 will reveal that God’s response to our sinfulness was His unfailing, unconditional love.

John MacArthur has written that *“when a person embraces Jesus Christ in repentant faith, the sinless Son of God who made perfect satisfaction for all our sins makes that person eternally at peace with God the Father. In fact, Christ not only brings peace to the believer but He Himself is our peace.”* This good news frees us to focus less on our-selves and more on serving the Lord and communicating this good news to those around us.

#### Applications . . .

1. Take time to be thankful today for the gift of salvation.
2. Tell someone the good news about what Christ has done for us.
3. Go out of your way to do something good and sacrificial for someone this week. If asked why, explain that the action was an offering of thanks for what Christ has sacrificed for us.
4. Reconcile with someone where there are hard feelings. Perhaps a family member or co-worker is in need of reconciliation with you.
5. Memorize verse 8. Practice reading this verse until you can say it by memory.

